**PATENT** - Attorney Docket No.: 704-X00-047US

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln of:  BINYAMIN PINKAS ET AL

Appln. No/Patent No.:  National Stage filing based on PCT/USOO/21615

Filed/Issued:  April 8, 2001

For: HONESTY PRESERVING NEGOTIATION AND COMPUTATION

### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

IN THE CLAIMS:

For the above-entitled matter, kindly amend the claims as follows:

-- 3. (amended) The method according to [any one of claims 1 or 2] claim 1, for computing the output of a sealed bid auction, where the users are bidders and the center is the auctioneer, and wherein the input X.sub.i is the bid of bidder B.sub.i, and an output of F is the identity of the winning bidder and the amount to be paid, and wherein the center only makes disclosure to the winning bidder, while all other bidders being able to verify that the auction was computed correctly, but do not learn any other information.

-- 4. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims 1, 2 or 3] claim 1, for first price auctions, where the output of F is (B.sub.j, X.sub.j), where X.sub.j is greater or equal to any one X.sub.i for $1 <= i <= n$.

-- 5. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims 1, 2 or 3] claim 1, for second price auctions (Vickrey auctions), where the output of F is (B.sub.j1, X.sub.j2), where X.sub.j1 is greater or equal to any X.sub.i for $1 <= i <= n$, and X.sub.j2 is greater or equal to any X.sub.i for $1 <= i <= n$ except for i=j1.